

Appl. No. 10/086,749
Amendment dated December 23, 2003
Response to Office Action of October 15, 2003

The following listing of claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Claims 1, 8, 11, 21, 23, 24, 27, 30, and 32 (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 33 for insertion into an electrical socket having a ground aperture and a ground prong receptacle, wherein said housing of said connector fuse has a ground aperture adjacent said live and neutral apertures and arranged to receive the ground prong of said appliance plug, said connector fuse further comprising:

a ground prong extending outwardly from said housing adjacent said live and neutral prongs on said housing and arranged to engage the ground prong receptacle of said electrical socket; and

a ground receptacle electrically connected to said ground prong, and disposed within said housing adjacent said ground aperture therein so as to engage the ground prong of a plug passing through said ground aperture.

3. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 33 wherein said housing bears at least one marking indicating the rating of said fuse.

4. (Original) A connector fuse according to claim 3 wherein said at least one marking is at least in part in Braille.

5. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 33 further comprising means for releasably securing said connector fuse to said electrical socket.

6. (Original) A connector fuse according to claim 5 wherein said securing means comprises a flange extending laterally from said tamper-proof housing, said flange having at least one aperture extending therethrough such that a fastener can be inserted through said aperture to secure said connector fuse to said electrical socket.

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7. (Original) A connector fuse according to claim 6 wherein said flange is adapted to replace the face plate of a conventional electrical socket.

9. (Currently Amended) A connector fuse according to claim 8-33 further comprising a resistor connected in series with said light emitting means between said live and neutral receptacles in said housing.

10. (Currently Amended) A connector fuse according to claim 8-33 wherein said light emitting means is selected from the group comprising an incandescent bulb, a light emitting diode, and an electroluminescent device.

13. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 34 wherein said housing is provided with a closed internal chamber configured to accommodate said blocking member while permitting said blocking member to slide within said chamber between its open and closed positions.

14. (Original) A connector fuse according to claim 13 wherein said biasing means comprises a spring one end of which is accommodated with a spring recess in said blocking member.

15. (Original) A connector fuse according to claim 14 wherein said spring is secured to, or integral with, one of said receptacles of said connector fuse.

16. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 34 wherein said cam surface has the form of an inclined surface defining part of the periphery of said neutral aperture in said blocking member.

17. (Currently Amended) A connector fuse according to claim 34 16 wherein said blocking member has a recess arranged so that, when the blocking member is in its closed position, the recess lies adjacent said live aperture of said connector fuse, so that a portion of said live prong of said appliance plug can be accommodated within said recess while said blocking member is still in its closed position.

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18. (Original) A connector fuse according to claim 17 wherein said recess in said blocking member extends to a free edge of said blocking member such that, when said blocking member is in its open position, said live prong of said appliance plug will pass beyond said free edge of said blocking member.

19. (Original) A connector fuse according to claim 18 wherein said housing is provided with a recess arranged to receive said free edge of said blocking member when said blocking member is in its closed position.

20. (Original) A connector fuse according to claim 17 wherein said housing carries a projection extending away from an inner surface of said housing adjacent said live aperture therein and into said recess in said blocking member, said projection serving to hinder access to a wall of said recess by an object inserted through said live aperture in said housing.

22. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 35 wherein said neutral prong of said connector fuse extends at least about 1 mm further from said housing than said live prong of said connector fuse.

25. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 36 wherein the outward surfaces of said insulating material and said conducting material are substantially flat and coplanar.

26. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 36 wherein said neutral prong of said connector fuse also has an inward surface facing said live prong thereof, a tip portion of said inward surface remote from said housing also being formed from said insulating material.

28. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 36 wherein substantially the whole of said outward surface is formed from said insulating material.

29. (Previously presented) A connector fuse according to claim 36 wherein said neutral prong of said connector fuse has a outward surface facing away

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from said live prong thereof, at least a portion of said outward surface of said neutral prong also being formed from an electrically insulating material.

31. (Original) An electrical safety connector fuse for insertion into an electrical socket having at least live and neutral prong receptacles, the connector fuse comprising:

- a sealed, tamper-proof housing having live and neutral apertures arranged to receive the live and neutral prongs respectively of an electrical plug;

- live and neutral prongs extending outwardly from said housing at points spaced from said live and neutral apertures, said live and neutral prongs being arranged to engage the live and neutral prong receptacles respectively of said electrical socket;

- a fuse disposed within said housing and electrically connected to said live prong;

- a live receptacle electrically connected to said fuse, and disposed within said housing adjacent said live aperture therein so as to engage the live prong of an appliance plug passing through said live aperture;

- a neutral receptacle electrically connected to said neutral prong, and disposed within said housing adjacent said neutral aperture therein so as to engage the neutral prong of an appliance plug passing through said neutral aperture. and

- a blocking member disposed within said housing adjacent said live and neutral apertures therein, said blocking member having a neutral aperture extending therethrough, said blocking member being movable between a closed position, in which it blocks the live and neutral apertures in said housing, and an open position in which the neutral aperture of said blocking member is aligned with the neutral aperture of said housing, and said blocking member does not block the live aperture of said housing, thereby allowing said live and neutral prongs of said appliance plug to pass through said live and neutral apertures in said housing and engage said live and neutral receptacles within said housing.

- said blocking member being provided with biasing means for biasing said blocking member towards its closed position, said blocking member also having a cam surface disposed adjacent its neutral aperture and arranged to be engaged by said neutral prong of said appliance plug passing through said neutral aperture in said

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housing, so that contact between said neutral prong and said cam surface causes said blocking member to move to its open position.

33. (Currently amended) An electrical safety connector fuse for insertion into an electrical socket having at least live and neutral prong receptacles, the connector fuse comprising:

a sealed, tamper-proof housing having live and neutral apertures arranged to receive the live and neutral prongs respectively of an electrical plug[[:]], substantially the whole of said housing being light-transmissive;

a means for emitting light disposed within said housing so that light emitted from said means for emitting light is electrically connected to said live and neutral receptacles of said connector fuse so as to emit light when a potential difference exists between said receptacles;

live and neutral prongs extending outwardly from said housing at points spaced from said live and neutral apertures, said live and neutral prongs being arranged to engage the live and neutral prong receptacles respectively of said electrical socket said live and neutral prongs being arranged to engage the live and neutral prong receptacles, respectively, of said electrical socket, said live prong of said connector fuse having an outward surface facing away from said neutral prong thereof, at least a portion of said outward surface being formed from an electrically insulating material;

a fuse disposed within said housing and electrically connected to said live prong;

a live receptacle electrically connected to said fuse, and disposed within said housing adjacent said live aperture therein so as to engage the live prong of an appliance plug passing through said live aperture;

a neutral receptacle electrically connected to said neutral prong, and disposed within said housing adjacent said neutral aperture therein so as to engage the neutral prong of an appliance plug passing through said neutral aperture; and

a blocking member disposed within said housing adjacent said live and neutral apertures therein, said blocking member having a neutral aperture extending therethrough, said blocking member being biased in a closed position and movable in response to the insertion of a plug prong into said neutral aperture between said closed position, in which it blocks th live and neutral apertures in said housing, and

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an open position in which the neutral aperture of said blocking member is aligned with the neutral aperture of said housing and said blocking member does not block the live aperture of said housing, thereby allowing said live and neutral prongs of said appliance plug to pass through said live and neutral apertures in said housing and engage said live and neutral receptacles within said housing.

34. (Previously presented) An electrical safety connector fuse for insertion into an electrical socket having at least live and neutral prong receptacles, the connector fuse comprising:

- a sealed, tamper-proof housing having live and neutral apertures arranged to receive the live and neutral prongs respectively of an electrical plug;

- live and neutral prongs extending outwardly from said housing at points spaced from said live and neutral apertures, said live and neutral prongs being arranged to engage the live and neutral prong receptacles respectively of said electrical socket;

- a fuse disposed within said housing and electrically connected to said live prong;

- a live receptacle electrically connected to said fuse, and disposed within said housing adjacent said live aperture therein so as to engage the live prong of an appliance plug passing through said live aperture;

- a neutral receptacle electrically connected to said neutral prong, and disposed within said housing adjacent said neutral aperture therein so as to engage the neutral prong of an appliance plug passing through said neutral aperture; and

- a blocking member disposed within said housing adjacent said live and neutral apertures therein, said blocking member having a neutral aperture extending therethrough, said blocking member being movable between a closed position, in which it blocks the live and neutral apertures in said housing, and an open position in which the neutral aperture of said blocking member is aligned with the neutral aperture of said housing, and said blocking member does not block the live aperture of said housing, thereby allowing said live and neutral prongs of said appliance plug to pass through said live and neutral apertures in said housing and engage said live and neutral receptacles within said housing, said blocking member being provided with biasing means for biasing said blocking member towards its closed position, said blocking member also having a cam surface disposed adjacent its neutral aperture

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and arranged to be engaged by said neutral prong of said appliance plug passing through said neutral aperture in said housing, so that contact between said neutral prong and said cam surface causes said blocking member to move to its open position.

35. (Previously presented) An electrical safety connector fuse for insertion into an electrical socket having at least live and neutral prong receptacles, the connector fuse comprising:

a sealed, tamper-proof housing having live and neutral apertures arranged to receive the live and neutral prongs respectively of an electrical plug;

live and neutral prongs extending outwardly from said housing at points spaced from said live and neutral apertures, said live and neutral prongs being arranged to engage the live and neutral prong receptacles respectively of said electrical socket, said neutral prong of said connector fuse extending a greater distance from said housing than said live prong of said connector fuse;

a fuse disposed within said housing and electrically connected to said live prong;

a live receptacle electrically connected to said fuse, and disposed within said housing adjacent said live aperture therein so as to engage the live prong of an appliance plug passing through said live aperture; and

a neutral receptacle electrically connected to said neutral prong, and disposed within said housing adjacent said neutral aperture therein so as to engage the neutral prong of an appliance plug passing through said neutral aperture.

36. (Previously presented) An electrical safety connector fuse for insertion into an electrical socket having at least live and neutral prong receptacles, the connector fuse comprising:

a sealed, tamper-proof housing having live and neutral apertures arranged to receive the live and neutral prongs respectively of an electrical plug;

live and neutral prongs extending outwardly from said housing at points spaced from said live and neutral apertures, said live and neutral prongs being arranged to engage the live and neutral prong receptacles respectively of said electrical socket, said live prong of said connector fuse having a outward surface facing away from said neutral prong thereof, at least a portion of said outward surface

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being formed from an electrically insulating material wherein a tip portion of said outward surface remote from said housing is formed from said insulating material, a root section of said outward surface adjacent said housing being formed from an electrically conducting material;

a fuse disposed within said housing and electrically connected to said live prong;

a live receptacle electrically connected to said fuse, and disposed within said housing adjacent said live aperture therein so as to engage the live prong of an appliance plug passing through said live aperture; and

a neutral receptacle electrically connected to said neutral prong, and disposed within said housing adjacent said neutral aperture therein so as to engage the neutral prong of an appliance plug passing through said neutral aperture.